



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Rich Stephens appointed Magistrate in Berkeley County

For immediate release

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. – Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit (Berkeley, Jefferson and Morgan Counties) Chief Judge Christopher C. Wilkes has appointed local attorney Richard Stephens as a Berkeley County Magistrate.

The swearing-in ceremony will be at 8:30 a.m. Monday, March 20, in the Berkeley County Judicial Center. It is open to the public.

“Not only does Mr. Stephens present with excellent legal knowledge and experience, but his dedication to the legal system in Berkeley County is well-recognized,” said Chief Judge Wilkes.

Stephens is being appointed to fill the vacancy left by Magistrate Rob Lowe, who will retire March 15. In West Virginia, magistrates are elected to four-year terms, but when a vacancy occurs it is filled by someone appointed by the Chief Judge of the judicial circuit.

“I thank [Magistrate Lowe] for his dedicated service to the citizens of Berkeley County and wish him the best going forward,” said Chief Judge Wilkes.

Public service in Berkeley County is not new to Stephens – prior to opening his own law office he worked for Berkeley County Prosecutor’s Office for 10 years, from 2002 to 2012.

“I am honored, extremely blessed, and privileged to be able to once again serve the residents of Berkeley County as their Magistrate,” said Stephens.

Stephens graduated *cum laude* in 1998 from Alderson-Broaddus University (AB) with a degree in accounting. While at Alderson-Broaddus, Stephens played NCAA Division II basketball, achieved the honor of conference male scholar-athlete of the year, and was named to the President’s List. Stephens attended Ohio Northern University’s Petit College of Law, where he graduated in 2001.

For more information on the Magistrate Courts of the State of West Virginia, please visit <http://www.courtswv.gov/lower-courts/magistrate-courts.html>.

For more information about this appointment, contact: Tessa Bowers, 304-264-1992, tessa.bowers@courtswv.gov.

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